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HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT,

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY of WEST SUFFOLK

Forty-Second Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1919,

BY

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Forty-Second Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Haverhill Urban District, in the Administrative County of West Suffolk, for the Year 1919.

This Report is prepared in accordance with the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical

Officers of Health for 1919

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population.—1911 census 4748; estimated 1919, supplied by the Registrar General for Birth-rate 4535, for Death-rate 4353.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—The geological formation is chalk, covered on the higher ground with boulder clay. The elevation above Ordnance Datum varies from 200 to 300 feet.

Social Conditions.—The population of the district enumerated at the census taken in April, 1911 is 4748. The principal industry of the town is the manufacture of textile fabrics and ready-made clothing. There is also a brewery.

Births.—The number of births in the Haverhill Urban District during the year was 55, males 25, females 30, of which 2 were illegitimate.

Birth-rate per 1000 population	1919	12·1	England and Wales				18·5		
Births in previous years	...	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	
Total Births	...	90	103	76	74	56	61	50	
Birth-rate	...	19·0	21·8	16·1	16·7	12·1	14·5	12·0	

Deaths.—The number of deaths during 1919 belonging to the Haverhill Urban District was 56, males 30, females 26.

Death-rate per 1000 population	1919	12·8						
Deaths in previous years	...	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Nett deaths at all ages	...	50	100	50	76	56	49	70
Nett death-rate...	...	10·5	21·1	10·6	17·2	13·1	12·9	18·9

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths under one year of age in this district during the year was 2; and the number of births during the year was 55, the infant mortality per 1000 births being 36 as compared with 89 in England and Wales.

Infant mortality in previous years	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Deaths under 1 year	11	15	6	4	10	3	4
Per 1000 births... ..	122	145	79	54	178	49	80

Amount of Poor-law Relief.—The amount of Poor-law Relief in this district during 1919 was $2\frac{1}{4}$ per head of the population.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.—The whole of the district is supplied with water from a piped service direct to the houses with the exception of 81 houses within reach of the mains which are supplied by wells, and 43 other houses not within reach of the mains, 41 being supplied by wells and 2 by ponds. The source of supply is from a well 7' 6" diameter dug 25 feet through boulder clay, 78 feet in chalk, and then bored a further depth of 152 feet, the borehole being $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; the total depth dug and bored is 255 feet. The well is situated at Burton End, Haverhill. The supply is constant. The service reservoir is situated at the Waterworks, Burton End, and has a capacity of 150,000 gallons. The pressure afforded by the service reservoir is sufficient to carry an adequate supply to all populated areas where mains are laid.

Rivers and Streams.—The district drains into the river Stour.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The town is sewered with glazed socketed pipe sewers and most of the houses in the town are drained into the sewers which have an outfall to the south of the town.

Closet Accommodation.—Most of the houses in the town have water closets which are drained into the sewer, the number of water closets in the town being 1035. In addition to these there are 69 privies and pail closets in the district.

Scavenging.—The scavenging of refuse has been undertaken by the Urban District Council. The collection and removal of refuse is made weekly on stated days and stated hours for each part of the town. This system of scavenging has been carried out for about nineteen years.

Sanitary Inspections of District.—The Surveyor, Mr. J. H. Clarke is the Sanitary Inspector for the Urban District. The number of inspections made during the year was 1156. Complaints received 5. Nuisances detected 54. Notices served 11. Nuisances abated 53. Old drains relaid 1, repaired 3. New drains laid 5. Closets repaired 2, supplied with water 3. Number of houses disinfected 6.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.—Byelaws for the following purposes are in force in this district.

1. Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.
2. Byelaws with respect to Cleansing of footways and pavements, removal of house refuse, cleansing of earthclosets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools.
3. Byelaws with respect to Slaughter houses. Number in the district, 6.
4. Byelaws with respect to Common Lodging houses. Only one in the district.
5. Byelaws with respect to Nuisances.

These Byelaws were allowed by the Local Government Board, May 28th, 1880.

In addition there are the Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, which came in force on January 1st, 1907.

Schools.—The Haverhill public elementary schools are large red brick buildings with accommodation for boys, girls and infants. The buildings are drained into the public sewers, and are provided with a water supply from the town waterworks. The medical inspection of school children in this district has been undertaken by the County Council.

Food.

Milk Supply.—There are in the Urban District six cowsheds, five dairies, and one milk store. The number of persons registered as cow-keepers in the district is 4. All the premises are periodically inspected. The number of inspections made during the year was 14, including inspections made at the time when milking was carried out. The District Council have authorised the calling in of a veterinary surgeon when necessary.

Other Foods.—There are 5 slaughterhouses in the town all of which are periodically inspected. The number of inspections made during the year was 29, including inspections made at the time of slaughtering. The only unsound meat found in the district during the year was 739 lbs. of Bacon, which was not exposed for sale. No action has been taken under section 117 of the Public Health Act 1875. There are 7 bakehouses in the district and the number of inspections made during the year was 17.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—No action has been taken by the District Council under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

The number of cases notified in this district during the year was 149.

Scarlet Fever	1	Malaria	1
Pneumonia	3	Measles 120 German Measles 7 ...	127
Erysipelas	2	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	2	Other Forms of Tuberculosis... ..	3

Small Pox.—During recent years the exemptions from vaccination have increased considerably. The Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, provide for securing on the occurrence of any case of Small Pox the prompt vaccination of persons who have come in contact with infection.

Scarlet Fever.—One case of Scarlet Fever was notified in this district in 1919, in November. The case was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.—No case of Diphtheria was notified in this district in 1919.

Enteric Fever.—No case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever was notified in this District in 1919.

Puerperal Fever.—No case was notified in this district in 1919.

Erysipelas.—Two cases were notified in 1919.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—No case notified during the year

Acute Poliomyelitis.—No case notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases were notified during the year.

Pneumonia.—Three cases of Pneumonia were notified in this district during the year, two in March and one in August.

Malaria.—One case of Malaria was notified during the year; the disease was contracted abroad.

Dysentery.—No case was notified.

Trench Fever.—No case was notified.

Measles and German Measles became notifiable on 1st January, 1916. During the year 120 cases of Measles and 7 cases of German Measles were notified. All the cases, except three, were notified by medical practitioners. There was no death from Measles or German Measles in this district during the year. The notification of Measles and German Measles was discontinued on December 31st, 1919.

Whooping Cough (not notifiable).—There was no death from Whooping Cough in this district during the year.

Tuberculosis.—Ten cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in this district during the year and three cases of Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Notification of Births Act is administered by the County Council.

Health Visitors are provided by the County Council.

The Midwives' Act is administered by the County Council; no powers or duties have been delegated to the Haverhill Urban District Council.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

Mr. J. H. Clarke is the Inspector of Nuisances and Housing Inspector for the District.

The Isolation Hospital for the District is a brick and slate building situated on high ground on the west side of the town. Cases of two diseases can be concurrently treated. A cottage is provided for the caretaker and nurses, also mortuary, disinfecting house, laundry, wash-house, and ambulance shed.

There are no Local Acts in force in the district. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act are in force in the district.

Housing.

I. General housing conditions in the district—

- (1) The total number of inhabited houses in the Haverhill Urban District at the last census (April 1911) was 1078; the number for the working classes is 908; no new houses for the working classes were erected during the year 1919; and none are in course of erection.
- (2) Population—The population of the district at the last census was 4748, the estimated population 1919 is 4500; with exception of the changes caused by the war there were no important changes during the year, and none are anticipated.
- (3) Shortage of houses—There is a shortage of houses for the working classes; it is estimated that about 60 will be required during the next 3 years. The number to be provided is 60 of the kind suitable for the working classes; the approximate amount of land to be acquired is 9 acres in Wratting Road and Withersfield Road, the number of houses per acre proposed to be built is 7.

II. *Overcrowding*—

- (1) Extent—The number of tenements at the last census with more than two occupants per room in this district was 17, having a population of 152, being in the proportion of 3·0 per cent. to population in private families.
- (2) Causes—The cause of overcrowding is the shortage of houses for the working classes.
- (3) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding are the building of more suitable houses for the working classes.
- (4) No cases of overcrowding were dealt with during the year.

III. *Fitness of houses*—

- (1) (a) The general standard of housing in the district is good, about 59 houses are considered unfit for habitation.
(b) The general character of the defects found to exist in the unfit houses is damp, no paving, insufficient height of rooms and lighting, lack of storage for coal and wood, houses very old.
- (2) Action taken to improve the unfit houses under the Public Health Acts.
- (3) The difficulties in remedying unfitness are shortage of suitable houses and the local builders are from 4 to 6 months in arrears in repairing work.
- (4) Conditions as far as they affect housing in regard to water supply and refuse disposal are satisfactory.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas*—There were no unhealthy areas in this district represented before the beginning of the Housing Act of 1890, and none were represented during the year, and no complaints were made during the year that areas were unhealthy.

V. Byelaws relating to houses let in lodgings, none; relating to tents, vans, sheds, &c., none.

VI. General and Miscellaneous—Action bearing on the public health, not included above, taken during the year in connection with housing, none.

VII. Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st December, 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation, none.
- (2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909.
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected, 170.
 - (b) Number considered unfit for habitation, 59.
 - (c) Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders, 27.

- (3) Action taken under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919.
- (a) Number of orders for repairs issued, none.
 - (b) Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the Local Authority, none.
 - (c) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction, none.
- (4) Closing Orders—
- (a) Number of Representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders, none.
 - (b) Number of Closing Orders made, none.
 - (c) Number of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put in a fit state for human habitation, none.
- (5) Demolition Orders—None made.
- (6) Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily, 6.
- (7) Obstructive buildings—None.
- (8) Staff engaged in housing work with, briefly, duties of each officer.
The Housing Inspector who is also the Sanitary Inspector. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

WILLIAM ARMISTEAD, M.B.,

*Stapleford,
Cambridge,*

April, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health.

**Table of Causes of Death in the Haverhill
Urban District 1919.**

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(*Civilians Only.*)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females
All Causes	30	26
Enteric Fever	—	—
Small Pox	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—
Influenza	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	4
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4	4
Rheumatic Fever	—	—
Meningitis	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	5	—
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
Alcoholism	—	—
Nephritis and Brights Disease	2	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	—	—
Congenital Debility, &c.	2	—
Violence, apart from Suicide	—	1
Suicide	1	—
Other Defined Diseases	8	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1
Special Causes (included above):—		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	2	—
Total Births	25	30
Legitimate	25	28
Illegitimate	—	2
Population for Birth-rate	4535	
" " Death-rate... ..	4353	